

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04

TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-01 FMC-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00 DODE-00

CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 /117 W
----- 041376

R 271635Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8408

UNCLAS GENEVA 1455

DEPT PASS ARMSTRONG - MARAD, ELY - DOT, SMITH - FMC,
DWYER - COMMERCE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, EWWT

SUBJECT: 3RD UNCTAD IPG ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT: SUMMARY OF SECOND
WEEK

REF: GENEVA 1234

1. SUMMARY: LITTLE ACCOMPLISHED DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF
SECOND WEEK OF IPG DELIBERATIONS. STRIKE BY UN SECRETARIAT
PERSONNEL WHICH BEGAN WEDNESDAY LARGELY PRECLUDED SALVAGE
EFFORTS. PROSPECTS DIM. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJOR DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND WEEK OF IPG WAS TO HAVE
BEEN CONSIDERATION OF 24 NATION WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER
DOCUMENTATION, SCOPE OF APPLICATION AND CUSTOMS QUESTIONS
IN DETAIL. GROUP WAS CONSTITUTED ON MONDAY, BUT
ITS MONDAY AND TUESDAY MEETINGS WERE TAKEN UP WITH WRANGLING
ON CHARACTER OF GROUP'S EVENTUAL REPORT, AND WITH IN-
CONCLUSIVE GENERAL DISCUSSION OF BASIC DOCUMENTATION
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ISSUES. GROUP WAS SUPPOSED TO BEGIN TWICE-DAILY MEETINGS

ON WEDNESDAY, BUT SECRETARIAT HAS PREVENTED FURTHER MEETINGS.

3. THE 24 NATIONS COMPRISING THE WORKING GROUP ARE: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CANADA, COLOMBIA, CUBA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, FRG, DRG, GHANA, HUNGARY, INDIA, IRAQ, JAPAN, MEXICO, POLAND, SWEDEN, THILAND, TURKEY, USSR, UK., US., ZAIRE, YUGOSLAVIA. MR TEMESGEN SAMUEL OF ETHIOPIA WAS ELECTED WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN.

4. PLENARY DISCUSSIONS MONDAY WERE DEVOTED TO CONSIDERATION OF CUSTOMS QUESTIONS. GROUP B COORDINATOR EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS GENERALLY CUSTOMS QUESTIONS, BUT STRESSED TECHNICAL NATURE OF QUESTIONS, THEIR GENERALIZED CHARACTER, AND INAPPROPRIATENESS OF IPG AS BODY TO ADDRESS THEM. GROUP OF 77 SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT 77 BELIEVED IT LOGICAL TO INCLUDE SOME RULES, PRINCIPLES OR SETS OF OBJECTIVES RELATING TO CUSTOMS IN ANY CONVENTION. GROUP OF 77 REPORTEDLY PREPARING A PAPER OUTLINING DESIRED CUSTOMS PROVISIONS, BUT PAPER NOT YET CIRCULATED. CUSTOMS SUPPOSED TO BE ADDRESSED BY WORKING GROUP, BUT DELAYS MAY BLOCK FURTHER DISCUSSION.

5. TUESDAY PLENARY WAS TO HAVE DISCUSSED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS, GROUP OF 77 CIRCULATED DOCUMENT CAPTIONED QUOTE DECLARATION OF THE 77 UNQUOTE. DECLARATION STATES THAT GROUP OF 77 PARTICIPATION IN THIRD IPG IS ON CONDITION THAT ANY FURTHER CONVENTION IN AREA BE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER; THAT CONVENTION BE COMPATIBLE WITH CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCE, AND WITH RELEVANT LEGISLATION AND AGREEMENTS ON CARGO SHARING; AND THAT CONVENTION SHOULD INCLUDE PROVISIONS REGARDING RELATIONS OF CONFERENCE, AND CARRIERS WITH SHIPPERS MTO'S. GROUP B DECIDED NOT TO MAKE DETAILED RESPONSE TO DECLARATION UNTIL MEANING AND WEIGHT GIVEN TO IT BY 77 MADE MORE CLEAR. HOWEVER, AT TUESDAY PLENARY, GROUP OF 77 NOT READY TO DISCUSS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND DISCUSSION DEFERRED. STRIKE HAS PREVENTED FURTHER PLENARY SESSIONS.

6. GROUP B HAS MET SEVERAL TIMES DURING WEEK TO CONSIDER SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS, INCLUDING THURSDAY AND FRIDAY MEETINGS IN BORROWED QUARTERS AT FRG MISSION. GROUP CURRENTLY DISCUSSING INSURANCE AND LIABILITY QUESTIONS, BUT WIDE DIVERGENCE OF OPINIONS REMAINS.

AUSTRALIA AND CANADA EMPHASIZED CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR UNIFORM SYSTEM. SWEDES AND NORWEGIANS URGED INITIAL CONSIDERATION OF A QUOTE BASIC UNQUOTE LIABILITY FOR MTO FOR CONCEALED DAMAGE AND DAMAGE NOT SUBJECT TO MODAL CONVENTION, WITH OTHER ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED SUBSEQUENTLY. US INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES IN LIGHT OF THEIR ECONOMIC AND INSURANCE COSTS TO SHIPPERS, WHILE NOTING THAT ANY ACCEPTABLE SYSTEM MUST PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE MTO LIABILITY FOR CONCEALED DAMAGE AND DAMAGE OCCURRING BETWEEN MODES. NO CLEAR RESOLUTION FORESEEABLE.

7. THE RESULTS OF THE IPG TO DATE ARE NOT PROMISING, AND THE SECRETARIAT STRIKE POSES CLEAR POSSIBILITY THAT MEETING MAY END EARLY. DEL SEES NO POINT IN CONTINUING INTO THIRD WEEK IF STRIKE NOT SETTLED BY MONDAY, AND GROUP OF 77 COORDINATOR HAS INDICATED THAT 77 WOULD FAVOR WRAPPING UP IPG MEETING IF STRIKE NOT SETTLED THEN. EVEN IF STRIKE SETTLED, PROSPECTS OF USEFUL WORK DURING THIRD WEEK SEEM LIMITED, AND SOME DEL MEMBERS (SHREVES OF FMC AND GAINES OF REYNOLDS) RETURNING TO US OVER WEEKEND. OTHERS MAY FOLLOW.

8. DEL PREPARING STATEMENT FOR DELIVERY AT CONCLUDING SESSIONS OF IPG (IF THERE ARE ANY) OR FOR WRITTEN DELIVERY TO UNCTAD, EXPRESSING US DISAPPOINTMENT AT RESULTS OF THIRD IPG AND QUESTIONING EXTENT OF FUTURE US PARTICIPATION IN SUBSEQUENT IPG MEETINGS. DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING DELEGATIONS, INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION, MEETING PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA01455
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0865
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976026/aaaaaeog.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GENEVA 1234
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 3RD UNCTAD IPG ON INTERMODAL TRANSPORT: SUMMARY OF SECOND WEEK
TAGS: EWWT, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006